

4/25/42

Mr. Benjamin F. Karpay
Pinto and Marcantonio
20 Vesey Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Karpay:

I hope this letter and the various attachments hereto contain all the information requested in your letter of April 20. If not, please let me know.

The sum of \$1,226.09 consists of the following:

1. Expense account filed by me on February 17, 1942, in the amount of \$81.09. This expense account covered my expenses on a three-day trip to New York, at the request of CLICK's Managing Editor, Whiting; per diem of \$20 for three days for my time pursuant to a long-standing arrangement; and phone calls both in Washington and New York on CLICK's business for the period covered by the expense account. I have made a copy of this expense account and it is enclosed.
2. \$175 for work not included in the bills I presented to CLICK covering a story I wrote and never used by CLICK, copy in CLICK's possession, and expenses on a trip to Kentucky. This is discussed in my letter to Mr. Pinto dated March 18, 1942, and in my answer to his letter of April 2, 1942.
3. The bills I presented to CLICK totaling \$970 and included in my memorandum to Mr. Pinto of March 14, 1942, ~~with accompanying bills~~

With respect to group 3 above and to answer your questions:

I worked for CLICK, as I believe I have already said, on a basis of \$10 per day, plus expenses, for all work except stories which I wrote; in such cases, Mr. Rogers, then editor, and I always agreed on a figure for these stories. This agreement also included my right to draw in advance at the rate of \$10 per day for all incomplete work, including stories. In addition, as already described, I had an arrangement with CLICK whereby I provided CLICK with an official government story per issue, to be printed in CLICK under the standing title, "Your Government Reports." For this service, not including illustrations, I was guaranteed by CLICK a minimum of \$100 each. I should point out that I spent a considerable amount of time and labor, including good public relations work, for CLICK in lining up this series, for which my compensation was to have been the continuation of the series. For some of these stories I have already been paid. Included in my statement were three complete government stories for which I have not been paid and parts of other stories for this series which I will specify as I get to them.

For your convenience I will follow the listing on page 2 of my memorandum of March 14, 1942.

The first three stories are the completed ones referred to. In each case the story was specifically ordered in advance by CLICK:

1. "Food for Freedom, \$150"

This story is one I worked on over a period of time in the government series. The date upon which I delivered it to CLICK is January 24, 1942. This story was by-lined by a member of the Cabinet, Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard, and in this case I made the bill for \$150 rather than the minimum guaranty of \$100 because I considered that the signature of the Cabinet officer was of definite value for CLICK. The then editor of CLICK agreed that this story and other such stories were worth more than the guaranty.

2. "Y.S.A. Health story, \$100"

This story was suggested by me and agreed to by Mr. Rogers in his letter of November 19, 1941. He said of it at that time, "It has wonderful possibilities." Subsequent to this time, the story was completed. When I ~~made~~ offered it to Mr. Rogers, he had changed the sequence of stories in the government reports series and asked me to hold this story until he was ready to use it because by the time he wanted to use it he might have wanted some changes. I personally delivered this text to CLICK on my New York trip in February at the time I presented the bills.

3. "Civilian Defense stories, \$100"

This story was worked on over a considerable length of time beginning in November 1941, was changed several times pursuant to the request of CLICK and in its revised form was delivered to CLICK in the middle of December 1941. When I was in New York in February, CLICK was working on this story for its then coming issue.

4. "Rehm & Haas Follow-up, etc., \$300"

Parenthetically, I might add that this figure is much too small for the services I rendered CLICK and the time they took, and I am sorry I did not check my files more carefully before presenting this bill.

The June 1941 issue of CLICK carried an expose by me of the Rehm & Haas Company of Philadelphia, and its related companies. This story was one that brought CLICK much credit and for which I was paid less than the editor of CLICK agreed the story was worth but all that he said his budget would allow. As a consequence, at the time I turned this story in, it was agreed that, as other things developed--things we planned at that time--I would be reimbursed in a manner that would compensate me for the additional money this story was worth. To date I have not been paid for these things.

They include the preparation by me of a lengthy affidavit to the Department of Justice and my promise to Mr. Rogers that I would hold myself available to testify in behalf of CLICK for the Government in a case it was then pressing against Rehm & Haas. Public relations work which I did for CLICK and for which I have not been paid resulted in CLICK's getting about 25 commendatory letters from important government people ranging from Cabinet officers and department heads to Congressmen and Senators in connection with this story.

Congressman Sabath, subsequent to my conference with him, praised this story in the Congressional Record and praised CLICK for the story. Things like that.

Subsequent to the appearance of this story and while I was working on another story on the Mirosta Corporation, Mr. Rogers requested me to testify on behalf of CLICK at a hearing to be held (about June 23, 1941) by the Patents Committee of the House of Representatives. Mr. Rogers promised that I would be compensated for my time and the losses I sustained. As a consequence of his request, I had to drop the Mirosta story, sustaining a loss of about \$250, and I did appear before the Patents Committee on behalf of CLICK. I informed Mr. Rogers, when he told me CLICK had been asked to appear before the Patents Committee, that I was convinced this was an effort to smear CLICK and from his office made some telephone calls which guaranteed CLICK's protection at this hearing. Upon my appearance before the committee, it became abundantly clear that the committee was acting as counsel for Rohm & Haas and that its purpose was to damage CLICK. Mr. Rogers' reports to Walter Annenberg, as he informed me of them, will amply corroborate this. At this hearing I defended CLICK against the very serious charges of blackmail and also defended Mr. Walter Annenberg personally against the same charge. Members of the committee frankly friendly to me defended CLICK at the hearing and saw to it that over the chairman's objection Mr. Rogers was given an opportunity to make a statement. My testimony on behalf of CLICK was so successful that the committee has found it necessary to suppress its hearings on the Rohm & Haas matter.

Subsequent to the hearing Congressman Kramer of California, chairman of the committee, endeavored to have the committee approve a report severely critical of and damaging to CLICK. Had this report been made, CLICK would have been perhaps the first publication singled out for condemnation by a Congressional committee in a report to the Congress. Through my efforts, this report was not accepted by all the members of the committee and, as a consequence, CLICK was saved this very serious damage.

Subsequent to this, Congressman Kramer made a speech (a one-minute speech extended into two full pages in the Congressional Record) attacking CLICK and defending Rohm & Haas against our story.

In this speech Congressman Kramer included letters to Rohm & Haas' secretary, S. C. Kelton, from an employee of the Department of Justice and from a brigadier-general in the army. He used these letters in such a manner as to make them appear critical of CLICK. This was a false use which nonetheless damaged CLICK. As a consequence, of my efforts CLICK has received letters from Assistant Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson and Assistant Attorney-General Thurman Arnold. These letters amply protect CLICK against the misuse of the letters referred to above. In a letter to me dated 10-4-41, Mr. Rogers described one of these letters as "positively astounding".

Because of the nature of the testimony before this committee and in order to protect CLICK and its owner, Mr. Annenberg, I was repeatedly requested by Mr. Rogers to do everything I possibly could to obtain a copy of the record. Congressman Kramer had forced the official stenographer to cancel his agreement to sell Mr. Rogers a copy of this transcript. Pursuant to this request, I made repeated and time-consuming efforts to obtain this transcript in various ways. All my efforts were unsuccessful and to this day I have not been able to get a copy. Mr. Rogers even authorized me to pay as high as \$1 a page for a copy of this transcript. From time to time Mr. Rogers asked me about this and I supplied him with many reports on what I was doing. As an example, he wrote me on August 19, 1941, "I am still very anxious to get hold of a transcript of our testimony before the Patents committee as soon as possible."

I have not been compensated for this or related work.

My testimony before the Patents committee was, without compensation to me, used by the Ammenberg interests in several of their house organs; viz., "MIA Microphone," Vol. 1, No. 7; "Wholesalers' Guide," Vol. 5, No. 7; under the headline "CLICK's Features of Today Makes the News of Tomorrow."

Also in connection with this matter, I made an effort to interest the Truman committee in investigating the Behm & Haas Company, at Mr. Rogers' request. This took four days.

From the time the story appeared until beginning of this year, a period of more than six months, I was required repeatedly to take time off and look out for CLICK's interests in this matter, at Mr. Rogers' instructions.

Had he continued with CLICK, I would have been compensated for this tremendous amount of work because he was aware of it and we had specifically agreed to delay payment to me until the Department of Justice action ensued (the Department of Justice just this week presented to the Senate Patents Committee the damning story against Behm & Haas. I presume you saw this in the newspapers).

I am confident that this figure of \$300 is considerably less than what this service is worth to CLICK, as well as to me. I arrived at this figure, as I remember it, by estimating that I had spent about 30 days on this matter. I am now confident that I spent more than this time.

5. "Time Spent on Rejected stories (per diem at \$10), \$110"

This includes work on two stories, one on Price Control and one on Government Information Services, at \$50 and \$60, respectively. The price control story was agreed to by CLICK on November 19, 1941. Subsequent to that time, in arranging for Henderson to by-line the story, in researching, etc., I spent five days; hence, the bill for \$50.

On the government information story, ultimately intended for the government reports section, I spent six days; hence, the \$60.

This story was an outgrowth of a story prepared at Mr. Rogers' request by a government official on the government information service and specifically on a motion picture film dealing with the Tennessee Valley Authority. Normally I would have been compensated \$100 for this story because Mr. Rogers had ordered it. On June 4, 1941, he wrote me, "Received Collyer's piece and the blow-ups, but no film yet. As it is the pictures are somewhat less interesting than the article." After the government series began, we enlarged this story. It was ready and was to have been the first in the series, but at the last minute Mr. Rogers requested the Treasury story which CLICK used instead of this story. Although the story was ready, he later rejected it with the understanding that in the future they might use the story in some different form.

6. "Time Spent on Stories in Operation as of 1-31-42 (per diem at \$10), \$105"
The story on counterpropaganda was not nearly ready and I had spent somewhat over two days in various times in November and December 1941 and January 1942 working on it. This story had been requested by Mr. Rogers. It was to have been one of the government series and was to show how, through various agencies, our government was counteracting Axis propaganda, both in the U. S. and in the rest of the world.

The War Against Waste story, also one of the government series, was authorized by Mr. Rogers in November 1941. I spent better than three days working on it and, subject to CLICK's approval, had made arrangements for Mr. Lessing Rosenwald, in charge of the government's campaign against waste, to by-line the story.

The story, "Making Democracy Work," was one on which I spent more than two days in December 1941 and January 1942; hence, the bill for \$20. This story was to have been almost entirely a picture story. It was to have dealt with the ill-clothed and ill-housed one-third of the nation, to have shown their stake in the war, etc. The status of the story was pictures were being collected by CLICK by various government agencies.

"Housing for Workers," \$10. Actually, I spent more than one day on this story in January 1942. The story was to have shown the problem of housing national defense workers; first, so they could better do their jobs, second, so their lives would be more enjoyable. The story was to show the temporary housing, such as War Relocation Administration trailers, rushed from camp to camp; the permanent housing by various government agencies; and the new types of housing evolving.

"Economic Warfare," \$25. This was to have been the story of how our government is in turn waging economic warfare against its enemies. I had done some work on this story early in the government series, researching for it, and, to Whiting's knowledge, spent some time working on the story pursuant to specific instructions from him. I spent more than 2½ days on this story; hence, the bill for \$25.

7. "Time Spent on stories that missed (per diem at \$10), \$105."
In going over some of these items, I find that my bill is insufficient, but I suppose it best that it stand as I presented it to CLICK.

"British Camera Crew on U. S. Production," \$20. On November 19, 1941, Mr. Rogers, in reply to my query, wrote "I think the story on the British movie unit is marvelous if we can really have it exclusive . . . I am really quite excited about the possibilities in this story." Subsequent to this time I spent considerable time and effort arranging for this story to be exclusive with CLICK, making necessary arrangements with the British Purchasing Commission, which was handling the photography for the British Ministry of Information; endeavoring to get permission for CLICK's photographer from our army; and many other things like that. This work continued into 1942.

At the time I filed the bill I thought I had spent slightly more than two days' time on this. Actually I spent more.

"Search for Pictures of Balbo's Plane, \$20." In about July 1941 I told Mr. Rogers I had heard that the British RAF photographers had obtained a photograph of Italo Balbo's plane being shot down by Italian anti-aircraft at Tobruch. I at that time pointed out this photograph might be a military secret, but at his request I endeavored to obtain it and spent two days on it. Included in this work was having cables sent to the British Ministry of Information in London and the RAF High Command in Egypt. RAF officials in Washington and Canada were also contacted. This story missed as CLICK knew in advance it might.

"Counterespionage, \$50". Early in 1941 Mr. Rogers ordered a story to show how our government was conducting counter-espionage in order to defeat Axis agents working in the U. S. It was to be largely a picture story and was to include such ordinary things as photographs of the FBI labs and things like that. Pursuant to these instructions, I spent several days during the early part of 1941 working on this story and in September, during the Nazi spy trial in New York, spent three days also working on this story. We dropped the story because Mr. Rogers agreed it was impossible to attempt to do it within the framework he visualized without revealing or seeming to reveal military information. Actually, I spent more than the five days covered by the bill.

"Army, \$15." I spent a day and a half in November 1941 trying to line up an army story to go in the government series and after spending this day and a half, Mr. Rogers did not feel that at that time the story was possible. During this time I interviewed many army officials, etc.

I believe this is all the information you want. If there are any things that do not make sense to you or relative to which you desire further information, please let me know as soon as you can because I have a feeling that the reason CLICK has stalled you, as well as me, is because they contemplate folding the magazine and I would much prefer to be paid before that happens.

Pursuant to your request I am attaching correspondence between me and various officials of CLICK dated as follows:

2/25/42

2/26/42 (registered letter receipts attached—I awaited the telephone call until 11:30 a.m. 2/27/42)

3/2/42

3/3/42

3/7/42 (As you will notice, misaddressed, and it reached me a week late)

There is also a memorandum re the expense account dated 2/23/42 with a handwritten note added by me 2/24/42.

I would appreciate receiving this correspondence back when you are finished with it as I have no other copies.

If it is convenient for you, I am rather curious to see their correspondence with you, but it is not a matter of life and death.

Yours very truly,

Harold Weisberg